

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for reviewing this application. Claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended as suggested by the examiner to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the patent. Claim 10 has been corrected to comply with 37 CFR 1.173(b). The objections regarding lack of the consent of all assignees and establishment of ownership interest in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172 and 37 CFR 3.71 have also been traversed with the submission of proper papers along with this response.

I. Amendments to Claims 1, 9 and 14 Correctly Describe the Claimed Invention

The examiner indicated that claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In accordance with examiner's comments, claims 1, 9 and 14 are amended so as to clarify the mechanical relationship between the shifting plate 22 and the stopping member 14.

Particularly, relevant section of '880 patent specification provides:

"When the shifting plate 22 is shifted toward the locking position, the stopping member 14 will be moved correspondingly to the first position so that the lock tongue 13 is constrained. On the other hand, when the shifting plate 22 is shifted back to the unlocking position, the stopping member 14 will be moved correspondingly to release the constraint of the lock tongue 13." (col. 2, lines 22-28)

The current amendments appropriately describe what was originally disclosed in the specification. Specifically, when the shifting plate is in the locking position, it allows the stopping member to move to a first position to constrain the lock

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longue. Conversely, when the shifting plate is an unlocking position, it moves the stopping member to a second position to release the constraint on the lock tongue.

II. Amendments Do Not Broaden the Scope of the Claim

The amendments made in claims 1, 9 and 14 are not broadening limitations as the revised claims do not contain within their scope any conceivable product which would not have infringed the original patent. Rather, the amendments are entered to correct errors that caused the patent to be partly invalid because what was claimed by the original claims is different from what was actually disclosed in the specification. The amendments appropriately describe the interactions among shifting plate, stopping member and lock tongue, allowing the claimed subject matter to be consistent with the disclosure in the written description. No broadening of the claims in any respect results from the proposed amendments.

With entry of the above amendments and remarks thereof, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are overcome.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this filing or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Patentee's attorney at the below-listed telephone number or email address.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Respectfully submitted,



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